



## MAINE FARMER

Our Home, our Country, and our Brother Man.

## A PLEA FOR TURNIPS, AND OTHER ROOT CROPS.

In a good article in the Canadian Agriculturist, written by Wm. H. Beresford, Esq., on the cultivation of root crops in Canada, we find some important facts in regard to the turnip crop. It would not be very difficult to raise 750 bushels of turnips here in Maine to the acre. Now allowing 60 lbs. to the bushel, we shall have 45,000 lbs., or say twenty tons.

Mr. Beresford says, "every Canadian farmer could with perfect ease devote every year a portion of his land to roots, five acres at least to the whole land in cultivation. By so doing he will be able to maintain more stock, obtain more manure, and produce more wheat per acre than under the present system. The nutritive matter contained in an acre of turnips is great. In a crop of 20 tons, or 45,000 lbs., there are 900 lbs. of thick or woody fibre; 400 lbs. of starch, sugar, gum, &c.; 670 lbs. of gluten; 130 lbs. of fat or oil; and 300 lbs. of saline matter; total 6,000 lbs.

A crop of 25 tons, or 55,000 lbs. (933 bushels) per acre, of carrots, contains 1,680 lbs. of husk or woody fibre; 5,600 lbs. of sugar; 840 lbs. of gluten; 200 lbs. of fat; and 800 lbs. of saline matter; total 9,120 lbs.

The quantity of nutritive matter afforded from a crop of Mangel Wurtzel, of 20 tons, or 45,000 lbs. per acre, consists of 900 lbs. of husk or woody fibre; 4,350 lbs. of starch, sugar, &c.; 900 lbs. of gluten; 450 lbs. of fat; and 800 lbs. of saline matter; total 7,200 lbs.

From a crop of oats at 50 bu. per acre, the 50 bu. weighing 2,100 lbs., we have 420 lbs. husk or woody fibre; 1,050 lbs. starch; 300 lbs. gluten; 100 lbs. of oil; and 80 lbs. of saline matter; total 1,870 lbs.

A heavy crop of wheat at 60 lbs. to the bushel, the weight of grain per acre would be 2,700 lbs. The amount of nutritive matter from an acre of Indian corn, at 30 bushels to the acre, amounts to 1,703 lbs.

From an acre of peas at 25 bushels per acre, 1,392 lbs.

Let us put Mr. Beresford's calculations, (which he says he has derived mainly from Johnston's lecture on agricultural chemistry,) into tabular form, so as to meet the eye more readily for comparison:—

	Yield per acre of nutritive matter.
Turnips,	6,000
Carrots,	9,120
Wurtzels,	7,200
Oats, (50 bu.)	1,870
Wheat,	2,700
Indian Corn,	1,703
Peas,	1,392

The following extract from the same paper, is as valuable and applicable to the farmers of Maine as to those of Canada.

"The use of carrots on a farm is well known to those who cultivate them. The seed should be sown early in the spring, the land having been well worked, for the carrots delight in depth and openness of soil. The grand use of carrots on a farm is for strengthening and medicinal food to horses and cattle. A gentleman of my acquaintance was very successful in giving them last spring to his horses, when they were recovering slowly from the influenza; they greatly promote the health of animals. The difficulty attending the sowing of the seed of the carrot operates against any large breadth of land being devoted to its culture. They should occupy however, some space in every root field of the farmer. The long red mangel wurtzel, the globe orange, and the red turnip root are eminently suited for culture in this country; they are suited to a much greater diversity of soils than the turnip. On peaty soils on the reclaimed bog lands of Ireland, they have produced a large amount of food. Equally a cleansing crop with the turnip, the mangel stores as well, if not better, is excellent spring food, can be sown earlier, not being subject to insect depredations. Experiments have been made of late in Ireland of substituting the mangel for part of the daily allowance of oats to working horses, and a calculation made that by consuming in this way the mangel produced by half a rood of land, a quantity of oats will be saved which will require two acres to produce. This crop should be harvested early. I found them more tender than the swedes, the yellow globe more so than the red; in pulling them, care must be exercised to inflict upon them as little injury as possible.

The parsnip is even more productive than the carrot; in the south of England and in the Channel Islands it is much cultivated. In a trial, in 1834, the same quantity of land which produced 261 lbs. of carrots, produced 840 lbs. of parsnips. The Alderney cows are fed on these roots, their milk is surpassingly rich, and yields more butter in proportion to quantity than that of any other kind of cows. Colonel Le Cour, an experienced agriculturist, states that out of three crops of parsnips in the Island of Jersey, in competition for a premium, the prize crop amounted to 27 tons 8 cwt. per acre, a quantity nearly sufficient for 10 cows, during the six winter months. The methods of culture practised in the Channel Islands, is both broadcast and drill; a deep trench tillage is adopted, from 1 foot to 18 inches deep. In the spring of 1854, also in the spring of 1855, I partook of the parsnip root which had been all winter in the ground; they were free from decay and of excellent flavor.

That the cultivation of roots has proved itself of extraordinary service to the farmers of Britain is evident to every intelligent mind. It has enabled them to provide a supply of food for their stock, and maintain them in good condition during, even in that country, the trying season, before the commencement of the spring feeding, to maintain the fertility of their land, produce more wheat and keep more stock per acre than even France.

I am well aware that in this climate we cannot

carry the culture of roots to the same extent as followed in Britain; but when we look to the amount of nutritive matter to be obtained from an acre of roots, and that by their culture they are the procurers of other future good crops, I am impressed with the opinion that every farmer should cultivate in certain proportions the mangel wurtzel, the carrot, Swedish turnip and some variety of the white. By commencing in May with the mangel and carrot, in June with the Swede, and even as late as July with the white turnip, he will be able to some extent, to avoid those difficulties which we have to encounter in this country with regard to labor, and attend to each crop in its several stages of growth, feeding out these different roots in their several seasons, and by it turn the earth to the use for which it is intended, and avoid those evils which the wretched system of a continual growth of wheat is certain to insure,—which has reduced the average yield in parts of the neighboring State of New York to 10 bushels per acre, and taking the whole State, the average is under 15 bushels, and even the great State of Ohio, it is said, will soon have to become an importer of food. In Scotland, where turnip husbandry is so much considered, the average yield of wheat in the thirty-two counties is over 28 bushels per acre, and this includes the northern counties and the Orkney Isles. I allude more particularly to Scotland, as that country through the Highland Society affords agriculturists a large and valuable amount of useful information.

For the Maine Farmer.

## CRANBERRIES.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—I have a small patch of meadow land, which I think is adapted to the raising of cranberries. I may be sowed with water during the cold weather, and made dry during the warm season. I have also access to coarse gravel or sand. Inquiries:—Can the cranberry crop, raised on a small scale, be made profitable? What kind of cranberries is best for culture on such land? How should the land be prepared, and at what time should they be planted or set out?

INQUIRER.

Essex, March 3, 1859.

NOR. The cranberry has hitherto proved a very profitable crop. It seems to delight in water and sand.

If our friend can easily coat over his meadow land with sand, set his plants out in the spring, and so arrange it as to throw water over them occasionally, about the time they are in blossom, in order to destroy a worm that is injurious to them, and also in the fall, of a cold night, when threatened with frost, before they are ripe, when they will succeed, and no doubt will find them a profitable crop. The large bell bog cranberry are considered best.

If "Inquirer" will send fifty cents to A. O. Moore, 140 Fulton Street, New York, and request him to forward "Eastwood's treatise on culture of the Cranberry," he will get good instruction in the business. [Ed.]

## FEED FOR SWINE.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—I am feeding a hog on thoroughly boiled corn, with the liquid for drink. Now, which is the best and cheapest mode of feeding swine,—mine or my neighbor's, who feeds his on Indian meal, converted into swill?

Yours, in the cause of improvement,

Washington, March 8, 1859. H. B. M.

NOR. We have tried both modes of feeding swine, and prefer giving the corn, cooking the meal, and feeding it in that form. A neighbor of ours also tried feeding his hogs with boiled corn, and subsequently feeding them with corn meal, mixed with warm water, and came to the conclusion that the meal was the best. The hog we fed on boiled corn, was slaughtered, and the contents of the stomach carefully examined. The kernels of corn were broken and apparently swallowed without much chewing. Of course they were not so intimately mingled with the saliva as perfect digestion would require.

It is evident that the more minute the particles of food swallowed, the more readily and of course the sooner will the gastric juices act upon it, and the more completely will it be digested. We do not say that that boiled corn is not good food for swine, or that it will not fatten them. We merely wish to say that we think it will take more of it to bring the animal up to a given point of fatness than it will of meal. We should like to hear from the experience of others on this subject. [Ed.]

For the Maine Farmer.

## BEANS.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—Having been called upon during the columns of the "Farmer," I will endeavor to offer a few remarks upon the subject of "beans." I have had several years experience in bean-raising, and have been enabled to select from the various varieties which I have cultivated, a bean known as the "rice bean,"—a small white bean, somewhat smaller than the "pea bean." It ripens before the frost comes in the fall, and is the most prolific bean, I think, raised. I raised four quarts of seed, six bushels. I have always practiced planting them among my corn, planting on the south side of the corn-hill.

I have raised several varieties successfully heretofore,—raising from eighteen to twenty bushels per year, but find none to excel the "rice bean," for yielding or quality.

The "marrowfat" is a bean of superior quality, but should be planted rather earlier than many other varieties, so that it may come to maturity. The seed should be pure and well developed, and can be made so by riddling. All who are in want of beans can be supplied, by calling on—

J. F. JENKINS.

North Wayne, March 8, 1859.

THE WHEAT CROP. Chicago, Feb. 17. Well's Commercial Express to-day has an article showing the deficiency in the receipts of wheat from the harvest of 1858, at this point, to be over 5,000,000 bushels at present, and estimating that to come in, the deficiency by the first of August will reach 8,000,000 bushels.

CORRECTION. In Mr. Richardson's communication last week, we make him say that he kept a horse and cow on the fodder of half an acre of corn; we should have had it "a little less than one and a half acres." This makes the story a little less wonderful, but more correct.

## RAISING FARM STOCK.

We have received a report of a discussion upon this subject by the East Wilton Farmers' Club, of which we give the material portions as follows: Mr. L. Adams commenced feeding his oxen and cows, this year, as early as the corn would do to top, and thinks it pays well. His cows increased their milk and gained flesh. When his young cattle and sheep first came to the barn, this and lean, he began feeding them with good hay, and they improved very much. His straw and coarse fodder he feeds in the coldest part of winter, never giving straw alone. Gives his young stock some hay, each day, which he thinks a much better way than to feed entirely on straw, having tried both methods. He waters his cattle at noon and in pleasant weather lets them run in the yard four or five hours, and feeds some in the yard. Young stock at two or three years old, he thinks costs twice as much as they are worth at the present prices.

Mr. D. Fletcher lives in the village, and keeps one cow. Feeds three times a day, and waters her regularly. Keeps her in the stable, which he thinks the best way. Has never fed much proffered. His cow looks well and does well, and he is satisfied the cost of keeping in this way is less than to feed cattle at hay-hazard and let them run at large and suffer from the cold. Farmers usually overstock their pastures. The best way is to keep better stock and less of it.

Mr. Thomas Hayes feeds good hay to his cattle when first brought up to the barn, and gives straw in the coldest part of winter. Feeds a little corn in the ear with his poor hay and straw. Regular feeding he considers very important. The Durhams and Devons he thinks well of.

Mr. J. Bean—has usually kept a cow, feeds three times a day, and no more, waters twice and has never fed much grain. His cow generally looks better in spring than in the fall. Thinks much is saved by regular feeding. Being short of hay, one winter, he gave his cow six quarts of oats per day, and she gave a good mess of milk, and was in good condition in the spring. He gave her but one ton of hay that winter.

Mr. C. C. Adams, thinks cattle, whether old or young, when fed on coarse fodder, should have some grain. Farmers should raise more roots than they do. Cattle should never be fed on straw entirely. Grain fed to calves, the first winter, will doubly pay. Calves fed with a pint of oats per day would be worth five dollars per head more, the next fall. Calves should not be weaned until 14 or 16 weeks old. He learns them to drink at 7 or 8 weeks, and he can then wean them without shrinking. Tie-ups, or leantos, should be made as warm as possible. His double boarded or celled up, all around, with a door hung on hinges at the bottom, in front of the cattle, to feed through. The manure in his barn has not frozen, this winter.

Mr. A. Chauncy. Cattle should be kept as comfortable as possible. Feeds good hay when they first come to barn, and thinks provender fed to calves would pay.

Mr. S. Lombard has noticed cows frequently chewing bones, and thinks there must be some property lacking in the soil.

[In answer to his query as to the cause, we answer that this craving for bones, in cattle, is known as the "bone sickness," and is caused by a lack of phosphates in their food. We have spoken of this disease before, and have not space, now, for an extended article upon it. The course of treatment to be pursued is to pound a few bones as finely as possible and feed to your cow, or purchase a bag of bone dust, and give her a little of that.]

The Club was organized last winter, and now numbers 38 members. Since the first of October, meetings have been held once in a fortnight, all of which have been very beneficial and interesting. There seems to be a general waking up among the farmers, feeling that their calling is the foundation of all others—honorable, peaceful, and, above all, most healthy.

For the Maine Farmer.

## THE WHEAT CROP IN MAINE.

MR. EDITOR:—A perusal of the interesting articles in the last and previous weeks' issue of the Farmer, from the report of the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, concerning the "enemies to the wheat crop," has led to a communication upon this subject, drawn from the experience and observations of farmers in several counties in the State.

It appears in Dr. Fitch's work on "Enemies to the Wheat Crop," that "the pecuniary loss to our country from the Wheat Midge is incalculable—truly appalling—very terrific;" that the loss sustained annually by the State of New York is from ten to fifteen millions; add to this the fact that good judges have estimated the loss to our own State at from three to five millions annually, together with the almost entire failure of the wheat crop the past season, and we have a sad reality, which, to wit without hope of remedy or future success, may induce farmers to abandon entirely this once certain and profitable crop.

What shall be done, then, farmers and wheat growers of Maine? Shall we cultivate wheat fields as food merely for our enemies—those we call insect "midges," or vegetable (rust) "fungi"—or leave them victims of the field?

There is but one remedy that has proved effective, and it is the object of this communication to make it more fully known: viz., that by sowing wheat very early, before the middle of April, if possible, we defeat those enemies and avoid them.

Mr. Baker, of Strong, has succeeded in raising fine crops of wheat, for the past three years, by simply preparing his ground ready for the seed in the fall, and sowing his wheat immediately after the snow leaves it in the spring. His crop, last season, was twenty bushels of excellent wheat to the acre, from several acres, sown April 17.

The advantages of his method are great, aside from a good crop of wheat. On land newly "seeded down," a "good catch" of grass seed is the sure result—drawing can be applied liberally to exhausted fields, in the fall, without injury to the wheat crop, and a portion of the "spring's work" is accomplished in the fall. It is to be regretted that Mr. Baker's method was not more generally made known at an earlier date, in the published statement of Dr. Prescott,

as he thinks land plowed in the fall better for wheat, and many would have prepared ground to test his method; yet, as there is but little frost in the ground, a favorable chance may be had for all who intend sowing wheat this Spring, to sow early.

Don't fear, brother farmers, to sow wheat early, on account of cold, even if the ground freezes, after the blade appears, so that cattle will not "track." The subscriber will be responsible for the damage of a thousand acres from this cause.

C. S. ROBBINS.

Winthrop, March 4, 1859.

## CLAMS.

But very few are aware of the richness of our clam banks. Unlike other banks, they are never affected by any financial crisis, or such disturbing causes; they discount daily, and offer a sure investment to the laboring man. They pay a greater dividend on the capital invested than any other institution in the country. To all who present themselves for a loan it is freely given, and no questions asked. Their currency is always at par, for their deposits are inexhaustible. Some fifty men are constantly engaged in this branch of business. The "crop" for each year will average from 6,000 to 10,000 bushels. From the 1st of October to the 1st of April, these bivalve fish are in their greatest excellence. During this time, Mr. Abner Cardwell will have put up some 1,800 bushels, or upward of 10,000 pounds, which find a ready market in California. Mr. Cardwell alone disposes about \$1,000 during this period. In addition to his purchases, and the house consumption, there are thirteen regular peddlars who obtain their supply in our market for the towns of Salisbury, Amesbury, East Haverhill, Haverhill, Georgetown, Rowley, West Newbury, North Andover, Lawrence, Lowell, and many other places. In those months which contain no R—being the Summer months—clams are said to be unhealthy, and are only used for bait by our mackerel fleet. The following prices are obtained in the Winter months: Twenty-five cents per bushel in the shell, or six cents a pound boiled; there being nine pounds to a bushel, would make fifty-four cents per bushel; for bait \$3.25 and \$3.50 are paid per barrel for shelled clams, the purchaser finding salt and barrels. A connoisseur can readily detect the age and soil from which the clam is taken. The clams which grow in the mud upon our flats being of a slower growth are necessarily tough, while the clams which are propagated at "hump sands" are much more tender and juicy. At the latter place these fish are not allowed to obtain but one year's growth, when they are taken to market. The clams taken from the flats are mostly used for bait. At this season of the year, when every kind of business is in a stagnated condition, and hundreds of men are out of employment, these clam banks offer extra inducements. A person who is acquainted with the grounds can make from one to two dollars per day easily.

[Newburyport Herald.]

## WEST GRAY FARMERS' CLUB.

MR. BENJAMIN SMITH, Esq., President. Mr. B. Adams sends us an account of the formation of a Farmers' Club, at West Gray. He says that the farmers of that vicinity, having a little spare time during the long evenings, and prompted by a little ambition, have "yielded to the oft repeated solicitations of the Farmer, and formed a Club, after the good example set them by their brother farmers in several other towns in the State." The preliminary meeting was held on the 4th, and at the next meeting a constitution and code of by-laws was adopted, and signed by fourteen members. "Rather a small beginning," says our correspondent, "but these are of the right kind. Better that a club be composed of a few live farmers, to commence with, than a thousand Rip Van Winkles." The following officers were chosen:—

President—Benj. Smith, Esq.  
Vice President—Eph. Lawrence, A. H. Purington, Esq.  
Recording Secretary—C. H. Freeman.  
Corresponding Secretary—Benj. Adams.  
Collector & Treasurer—R. A. Allen.  
Librarian—Albert Pennell.

Business Committee—D. L. Bailey, Andrew Allen, John S. Adams, Alexander Pride, and Hiram Skillin.

The Club hold weekly meetings. The Secretary acknowledges the receipt of a donation of books,—agricultural reports,—from John F. Anderson, Esq., for which the club return a vote of thanks.

We are pleased to note the formation of this Club, and give them our best wishes for their success, in the task of mutual improvement.

## AN EXPERIMENT IN DRAINING.

When we witness the change of a sterile soil into a fertile one through the influence of draining, it is conclusive evidence of the value of labor so applied. Such has recently come to our notice and we shall recall it to our readers.

It not unfrequently happens in hilly or gently undulating districts, that intervals and damp, springy soils abound, requiring draining before they can be brought into profitable cultivation. The instance in question, was a field of fair surface, quite free from stones, but receiving from some elevated land a continual supply of clear, cold, soft spring water, which ran over nearly the whole surface. The owner, faithful of reclaiming the lot, was yet desirous of collecting the water to supply a reservoir for cattle. This was mainly accomplished by cutting a drain across the slope of land near the upper side of the field, for about a hundred rods in length, which did so much for draining the surface that other ditches were cut completing the work. The drains were finished with the flat stone usual in such districts, carefully laid and covered with a good coat of straw, before replacing the dirt. Now of the change produced.

A crop never grew upon this lot from the time it was cleared until after it was drained. Water grasses and weeds were the only product; but since draining, it has produced annually over two tons of hay per acre, without any manure. The appearance of the soil is wholly changed, from a tenacious blue clay, adhering to one's boots like—just such a soil as always produces remunerative crops to the farmer. [Country Gentlemen.]

## SPRING.

BY HENRY T. TUCKERMAN.

Bride of the year! I met thee last  
And thy favorite lowers  
And saw thy virgin form repose  
On banks of Southern flowers;  
Thy breath smelt of Southern lilies,  
Thine eyes embodied youth,  
Thy smile gave birth to countless dreams  
Of glory, love and truth!

Zephyrs, as angels breathing soft,  
And rain more sweet than dew,  
Molded thy beauty into life,  
Sweet, delicate and true;  
Thy sky a deeper azure more,  
Thy sea more gently rolled,  
The sun his banner nobly decked  
With purple, rose and gold.

Thy dim, gray olive leaf grew bright,  
And thy kindly smile  
Stridest old boughs like childhood's cheek  
Pillowed on hoary hair;  
Thy eyes wildly swayed no more,  
And ceased its dirge-like moan  
To greet thy thrilling touch, and hear  
The music of thy tone.

Thy tender hand drew off the shroud  
From many an Alpine head,  
And lo! where long, dense clouds hung dark,  
A gleam of light is spread;  
The ancient moon was green again,  
Beneath thy pitying tear,  
And heard the dead leaves from the grass  
As thy light steps drew near.

With positive sweetness played the founts,  
And streamlets louder sang,  
As thou thy cygnets of blue,  
Around them softly flung;  
The west reflecting thy deep blue,  
Prolonged its ray green,  
And doffed their garb of snow.

Thy song beguiled the lizard forth  
To rustle through the broom,  
While the almost hush of buds,  
To wait a sweet perfume;  
The bee thrilled clear his tiny horn,  
The nightingale her flute,  
And every bird a note.

The rose raised his pendant spear,  
With a chivalric pride,  
While the dark plant a welcome waved,  
Along the mountain side;  
The lily from its shield of green,  
Looked forth with meek surprise,  
And twilight lingered from his couch,  
To watch thy loving eyes.

For the Maine Farmer.

## NOTES FROM BETHEL.

I attended the tenth meeting of the Bethel Farmers' Club, this winter. Subject for discussion,—Manures.

Dr. True spoke of the mineral constituents of the soil, and its wants,—thought there was a lack of lime in this section; small quantities should be applied frequently.

Another spoke of the waste of manures, by the liquids escaping, and also by evaporation, without absorbents being applied. Old manure is preferred for corn, and used in the hill.

One remarked that he could raise good corn with new manure,—would cart it out as early in the spring as possible, putting all the different kinds into a heap together,—as soon as it begins to ferment, pitch it over, mixing thoroughly,—when it begins to ferment again, serve as before, put it in the hill well warm, and cover it up immediately, it gives the corn a quick start and all of the strength of the manure is retained in the soil. There is more lost than gained by keeping manure over one season. It is a question whether it would not be better for the permanent improvement of the farm, to get all manures into the ground as soon as possible.

Muck is used by some of the farmers here, to a considerable extent, but little is used in its crude state; should be carted out and allowed to freeze, or else lime and salt applied, to neutralize the acids; is used as an absorbent in the hog yard;—one member thinks it worth in his yard, one dollar a load—carts it a mile and a half. Plaster is used here with good results on upland and high intervals,—on the low intervals it does but little good.

There is a great difference of opinion as to what way plaster benefits the crops. An instance was mentioned, in a neighboring town, where an acre of corn was planted, and plaster was used when planting on all but three rows in the centre of the piece,—these yielded but a very little corn, and that of a poor quality, while on the rest there was a fine crop. The owner thinks the three rows were injured, by the application of plaster to the others, as the land was in a good state of cultivation. How is this Messrs. Editors?

Equal parts of lime and ashes have been used with good results for potatoes. But little guano is used here, and certainly none should be, so long as much that is valuable is allowed to run to waste, from the sink spout, cow yard, &c.

I have noticed while riding through the town, that nearly all the new barns have a cellar under them, while many are raising up their barns, preparing for the same. I am informed that the Farmer has contributed in no small measure, in encouraging this commendable improvement.

March 8, 1859. B.

## POTATOES AND ONIONS.

The potato crop is of great importance to mankind, and any new thoughts and experiments, should be looked after, if they will tend to increase the product. The last year I farmed, five of the celebrated Currier Potatoes were sent me to plant for seed. I cut them into five parts each, on a retentive soil, very rich, with a tea spoon full of sulphur to the hill, about the 20th of June. They came up very quick and strong, and grew rapidly; by the first of October, the tops were four feet high and very stocky. I dug them the middle of October, the ground being very wet, the product being three pecks of very large, fair ones, not a single rotten one. I kept them until the next June, and no sign of rot, while my other Potatoes rotted very badly before and after being dug. The enormous yield did not surprise me, as the ground contained all the constituents for any crop, in the greatest abundance, but I was surprised to find one sound Potato in the lot. Now the question is, did the sulphur save them? I leave it for others to experiment, and give results.

It is said that onions cannot be raised in most parts of Maine on account of the maggot. Such is not the fact. The Danvers Onion raisers, who are celebrated, and raise hundreds of thousands of bushels annually, say they cannot be raised, without manure-bed manure, which is no better than any old, decomposed manure, with a little salt added, in fact not so good, but onions must have

salt, as they feed upon it. My way to raise them was as follows: I took a piece of rather heavy ground, in good condition, one rod by three, so as to have the rows long, (as I sowed with an Emory Seed Sower,) plowed in a heavy coat of old compost. Harrowed it very fine, then put on a good coat of sand. Harrowed it across, then put on one peck of coarse salt, half bushel carbonate of lime, and brush-harrowed thoroughly. By this time it became smooth and hard. I now sowed a half-pound of Danvers Yellow Seed, one foot apart. Next took one barrel of tobacco stems, dried in the sun, broke them up fine, and sowed it on, and then rolled it evenly. I kept it clear, and well thinned out, and during the growth of the piece, my neighbors "laughed on the other side of the mouth." They had told me it could not be done in this region.

My product was, after "pickings and stealings," thirteen bushels, or about seven hundred to the acre.

After the ground has been thus prepared for the first year, all that need be done from year to year thereafter, is to keep the soil in heart; it needs no plowing, but should be harrowed fine every spring before sowing. I think all may raise a good crop of onions by following this method.

[State of Maine.]

## REFORM SCHOOL, &amp;c.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—It may be that your readers would like to hear occasionally from this Western part of our State. (Our correspondent then speaks of a series of concerts by "the Blind Bards," Dr. B. Merrill and wife, from the South Boston Institution for the Blind. We are compelled to omit it, but copy the remainder of his communication entire.)

THE REFORM SCHOOL. I may speak of the sincere pleasure I have enjoyed in visiting the Reform School at Cape Elizabeth. If it is a pleasure to witness the phenomena of the blind receiving their sight through the sense of touch, it is no less a pleasure to witness the process of restoring vision to those morally blind, and the transformation of truant and vagrant into industrious and right-minded boys. A noble State charity is this, and worthy is the institution managed, both in the educational and industrial departments. Some two hundred and ten or fifteen boys, congregated from all parts of the State, gathered from the streets and by-ways where sin spreads its enchantments to ensnare and destroy, and then shut away from the habits and companions which were working their ruin, afford a spectacle no cannot behold unmoved. The order and propriety exhibited in mustering to the dinner table, the good behavior at table, the industry and skill in the several work shops, and the general appearance of health and contentment, afford a fine commentary upon the fidelity, vigilance and skill of the Superintendent and the corps of assistants. Taking into account the fact that a large number of the boys were thrown out of employment, just as winter was coming on, by the failure of a firm which had engaged them on a contract, the successful effort of the Superintendent to secure employment in the winter months, affords a fine illustration of executive force. The spring months will soon bring seed time, and the farm labors will then be entered upon with special delight. We shall be greatly disappointed if the farming operations of the next year do not show most cheering results. The successful labors in all the departments, with the advancement in the school, will gradually demonstrate the practicability of uniting labor and study, and securing noble results in both. This demonstration will go far to satisfy our lawmakers that a system which works well for boys that parents and guardians could not manage, may possibly be made to succeed for those who delight to do well without constraint. It will be seen, at length, that the good boys of the State may be as fairly entitled to liberal educational provision as the bad ones.

LYCEUM—FARMERS' CLUBS. A sincere pleasure has arisen from responding to invitations from Lyceums to address them upon the vital interests of our State. A cold afternoon ride brought us, on Tuesday evening, to the village of Salmon Falls, on the Saco, in order to address the village Lyceum. This organization is in vigorous life, and is useful in developing native talent and affording rational amusement. The village affords an illustration of the folly of our early legislation in discouraging manufactures. A splendid water power almost runs to waste, just because the Legislature of the State discouraged and finally broke up the plans of a company that desired to invest capital and build up a village, in years gone by. Several families propose leaving this vicinity for homes in the Aroostook next season, especially if the proposed railroad shall command public favor.

The thermometer at 14 deg. below zero, of a March morning, gave rather a chilling prospect for a sleigh ride to South Windham via Portland, to address the vigorous Farmers' Club of that enterprising locality. This Club is doing a good service, profiting both its members and their neighboring farmers. The social discussion which followed the lecture on Maine, gave much interest to the occasion, and the action of our Legislature, with reference to the Aroostook railroad, will be looked for by the members of the Club with deep interest. If that action shall be wise and liberal, we greatly mistake if it will not receive liberal support from all who will take necessary pains to understand the question. No subject of discussion elicits a deeper interest, at this time, and this is all. The time for a more enlightened and liberal policy for internal improvements has fully come.

FARM IMPROVEMENTS. The visit to South Windham has been made the more interesting by ample opportunity to examine the beautiful stock and other improvements of two successful competitors for premiums in Cumberland County. John F. Anderson and Charles Hunnewell are near neighbors, and both entered their Farms for premiums offered by the Cumberland Co. Ag. Society, for general farm improvements. The first premium, of \$100, was divided between Mr. Anderson and J. P. Perley of South Bridport. The second premium, of \$50, was awarded to Mr. Hunnewell. Mr. Anderson's improvements were various, including repairs upon buildings, barn cellar, renovating pasture lands, and an extensive range of under-

draining, which seems to have been eminently successful.

Mr. Hunnewell has also improved pasture lands, made great improvement in fences, upon a model of his own, which is both neat and durable. It is made with four rails, sowed from Hemlock, 3x3 inches, bored through diagonally for the insertion of iron posts. These posts are inserted in stone walls of sufficient weight to hold them firmly erect, and are but slightly disturbed by the







## HARTFORD.

**FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY,**  
HARTFORD, CONN. Incorporated A. D. 1810.

Assets January 1, 1859.	
on hand and in Bank,	\$48,455
in hand of Agents and in transit,	84,897
Estate unencumbered, (cash value),	16,000
Receivable, all stock in Hartford,	72,174
Shares Bank Stock in New York,	280,413
" " " Boston,	197,760
Shares Bank of the State of Missouri,	10,000
and City Bonds, 6 per cent,	14,245
Road Stocks,	10,280
and States' Treasury Notes,	14,035
	\$803,700

**LECTORS.**—H. Huntington, Albert Day, James Goodwicks Boswell, Henry Kenney, Calvin Day, Job Ailyn, John. Charles J. Russ.

**Secy.**—C. Ailyn, *Secretary*. C. C. Lyman, *Assistant Secretary*. H. Huntington, *President*. Wm. N. Bowers, *Acting Secretary*. This old and reliable Company, established for nearly fifty years, continues to insure against Loss or Damage by Fire, Wind, Burglary, Furniture, Stores, Merchandise, Mills, Manufactories, and other kinds of property, on its usual satisfactory terms. Particular attention given to insuring Farm Property, usually at reduced rates. *Readers of Goodwill*.

For Livestock, Hay, Grain, Farming, Utensils, &c., &c., on the same, for a term of three or five years at low rate of premium. For applications for Insurance may be made to the undersigned duly authorized Agent for Augusta and vicinity. Policies equitably adjusted at this Agency, and paid immediately, upon satisfactory proofs, in funds current in the cities of New York or Boston, as the assured may prefer.

Augusta, Jan., 1859. 6m10 B. DAVIS, Agent

**QUINCY MUTUAL  
FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY,  
Of Quincy, Massachusetts.**  
AVAILABLE AND CASH CAPITAL, . . . 370,000 DOLLARS.  
**STEPHEN BATES, WM. S. MORTON.**

Secretary. President.

INSURES Buildings, Merchandise and Personal Property generally, on terms as favorable as is done by any other insurance PAYING COMPANY. Home Office, Quincy, Mass.

REFERENCES. Hon. Geo. T. Bigelow, Associate Justice of the U. S. Court of Mass.; Hon. Josiah Quincy, Jr., late Mayor of Boston; Hon. Amasa Walker, of N. Brookfield, late Sec. of the Commonwealth of Mass.; Hon. Chas. Francis Adams, Quincy, Mass.; Josiah Brigham, Esq., of Quincy, Mass.; Hon. Wm. R. Rankin, Mass.; Hon. Solomon Lincoln, C. of Webster Bank.

This company has been in operation nearly eight years, and now paying Fifty per cent. on all five years, and Twenty-

on annual prices. July 1, 1858.  
 LEVERETT LORD, Hallowell, Me., Agent.  
**This is the Place, and now is the Time**  
 to purchase articles that will be wanted, and cannot be for  
 at any other place.  
**MISS FISHER**  
 will positively close her business this Spring, and having  
 stock to dispose of, offers her goods at REDUCED PRICES  
 to, purchasers of a single article, and for any one who will  
 close out stock, in which case a liberal discount from cost  
 will be made.  
 Milliners and Country Dealers in Fancy Goods may find it  
 to their advantage to purchase such articles as their business  
 requires, and those wishing Dress Trimmings, and other arti-

There will be no reduction in the price of wares, up or  
right in large quantities.

Accounts standing, are requested  
to pay before the first of April.

HENRY M. PRATT

**Farm for Sale or Exchange.**

THE Farm on the lot De. Prescott, is offered for sale  
situated on Crown's Hill, Yavapai Co., 8 miles from  
Phoenix Arizona. The farm contains about 60 acres  
of excellent land, suitably divided into tillage, pasture  
and orchard. There is a fine residence, a barn, a carriage  
and a half story farm house, barn, sheds and other structures.  
The place is well watered by a spring which flows into  
the washade, carriage house and stable attached, all in perfect  
condition. The place is surrounded by a good fence and  
is a rare chance for a physician, desirous of obtaining a  
quiet and pleasant neighborhood, within one hour's riding  
from Phoenix. It is also a desirable place to stand firm  
against other mechanic. The above, together with  
other valuable improvements, can be had for cash or  
terms, a large part of the purchase money remaining  
in the hands of the owner. The place is situated near  
Wacaville. Possession given the 1st of April. For further  
particulars apply to HENRY M. PRATT, Care of J. C. Conner,  
Yavapai Co., Yavapai Co. ISAAC FAYHILL, Esq. East  
Phoenix, Ariz.

The date of the subscription, at 100 Dollars per share,

HENRY M. PRATT

**Farm for Sale.**

The Subscriber being in the West, offers his Farm  
for sale as a good bargain. The Farm is situated in Farm  
County, Mo., and is bounded by the State of Kansas  
on the west and north, and the State of Arkansas on  
the east. The best markets in the State. The Farm containing  
about 100 Acres, is well watered by a spring which flows  
into the washade, carriage house and stable attached, all in perfect  
condition. The place is surrounded by a good fence and  
is a rare chance for a physician, desirous of obtaining a  
quiet and pleasant neighborhood, within one hour's riding  
from Phoenix. It is also a desirable place to stand firm  
against other mechanic. The above, together with  
other valuable improvements, can be had for cash or  
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Wacaville. Possession given the 1st of April. For further  
particulars apply to HENRY M. PRATT, Care of J. C. Conner,  
Yavapai Co., Yavapai Co. ISAAC FAYHILL, Esq. East  
Phoenix, Ariz.

The subscriber, determined on going West,  
 his farm, on which he now lives, at a good bargain.

Farm is situated in Mt. Vernon, on the main county road, about 1/2 mile from Augusta to Farmington, well known as the Robert B. Smith and later the John Smith place. The farm is owned by the Smith family and about one mile from Maine Wesleyan Seminary. The farm is situated on the main county road, about 1/2 mile from Augusta to Farmington, well known as the Robert B. Smith and later the John Smith place. The farm is owned by the Smith family and about one mile from Maine Wesleyan Seminary. The farm is situated on the main county road, about 1/2 mile from Augusta to Farmington, well known as the Robert B. Smith and later the John Smith place. The farm is owned by the Smith family and about one mile from Maine Wesleyan Seminary.

[illegible]

ist-mill, about an equal distance from meeting and schel ho  
and within three miles of Wicasset and Damariscotta villa  
here a good market may always be found. In short, it is  
the finest locations in town. Call and examine for yourself  
payments made easy, as a part may remain on mortgage.  
THOMAS KENNEDY  
New Castle, Oct. 18, 1855.

**THE** Subscriber offers for sale his Farm, situated at Dixfield, on the county road passing from Dixfield Village, to Wells, three miles from the former place. The farm is pleasantly located in a good neighborhood, with some fine meeting places near, and within 10 miles of a Rail Road Station. It contains about 60 acres of land, well adapted to tillage, pasturing and woodland, cuts yearly from 40 tons of good English hay. There are two orchards, yielding about 40 bushels of apples yearly, part of which is grown by hand. There is a good barn 48 x 50 with a 60 foot shed attached, and a large stable, all new. There are also several trees and two wells of never failing water, one at the house, the other at the barnyard. On the premises is a large cellar well stocked with split stone, the underpinning set, and the shills laid for a

the place if desired. A well underpinned shed and pig  
already built to convert said house. Said farm will be  
cap if applied for soon.  
Dixfield, Feb. 24, 1890. HIRAN LIDBURY  
dw

**For Sale.**


**THE DOW FARM, in East Wilton.** Said Farm con-  
sists of 65 acres of land, half-way orchards, cuts 25 to 30  
tons per year, it has two barns, a comfortable house, a  
good road to the mill, a good pasture, and is within two  
miles from two Depots. It will be sold cheap and pay-  
ment half down, the balance in six years, price \$1200.  
East Wilton, Feb. 24, 1890. W. H. WILSON

**Farm for Sale.** THE subscriber offers for sale his FARM at the village of St. Vermeil, about 10 miles from the Village of St. Charles, on Roadhead Depot, said Farm contains 80 acres of excellent land in a good state of cultivation and very easily tilled, is suitably divided into mowing, tillage and pasturage and grows thirty wood lots. It is well watered, and has a yearling orchard with 100 fruit buildings on the same. The farm cuts from twelve to fifteen tons of hay annually. Near school and mill privileges near. Also the Stock and farming implements complete. Will be sold with the Farm if desired. Also another lot of 100 acres adjoining the highway, about fifty rods distant from the above, with a large mill race, and a large quantity of maple and cherry apple trees partly encircled, a good wood lot and a

on the same. The above will all be sold together or separate to suit purchasers. Said Farm can be had at a bargain in cash or on terms. Terms *payable* made easy.

Wm. Vernon, Feb 23, 1899. 3-11 BENJ. B. CRENSHAW

**Farm for Sale.**


 THE SUBSCRIBER offers for sale his Farm, situated two and one-half miles east of the Village in Marion. Said Farm contains about 60 acres of choice land, well suited into Tillage, Mowing, Pasture and Woodland. The water, here a subterranean spring, is excellent. The land is of the very best quality, and under a good state of cultivation. This offers a rare chance to one who wants a farm, as it will be sold exceedingly low.

Wm. Vernon, Feb 23, 1899. 3-11 BENJ. B. CRENSHAW

**Small Farm for Sale**  
IN SANDY RIVER VALLEY, situated in the  
of Mercer one-half mile from Mercer Village, a  
miles from the county seat (Norridgewock), twelve miles  
from the State Capital, this Farm contains 40 acres of clay loam land  
from stone, divided into (Norridgewock). Pasturing and Woodland  
about ten tons of hay, a small orchard, mostly grafted,  
buildings, suitable for two families if desired, within one  
mile of mills, stores, meeting-house, &c.,—together with 40  
of fertile land if desired.  
For further particulars apply on the premises of


Merced, Feb. 23, 1859.      Twill      WARREN LELAN

**Farm for Sale.**

 PLEASANTLY situated on Bangor Street two or three quarter miles from the bridge, containing about 10 acres, with good buildings, wood, orchards &c. &c. reduced.      T. S. INGRAHAM

Augusta, Feb., 1859.

**Tavern Stand for Sale**

 OWING to a change taking place in the subscriber's family, he now wishes to sell the Tavern Stand of the Detroit's Corner, and the Public House, and all the above a fair consideration will be given for the same.

**Valuable Real Estate for Sale.**  
300 ACRES Timber land and Pasture, situated in the town of Fayette, will be sold at a good gain if applied for soon. Enquire of  
Mt. Vernon, Feb. 21, 1859. Small JOHN WALTON

**Carriage Wheels.**  
FAGG & CO., of Hallowell, have a large assortment of Wagon, Buggy, and City wheels for sale at the lowest prices. They are well made and will last for years.

Also a large assortment of Carriage Paints and Varnish.  
Also three wagons and three sleighs.

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